GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1907
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007
INDO -JAPAN BILATERAL TRADE
Kurup Adv. Suresh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report of Indo-Japan Study Group on the bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has considered the report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Joint Study Group (JSG) has recommended that the Government of Japan and India launch an inter-governmental negotiation to develop an Economic partnership Agreement (EPA)/comprehensive Economic partnership Agreement (CEPA), within a reasonable period of time. The JSG also recommended that negotiations on the proposed EPA/CEPA be conducted in a specially-constituted Joint task force, or another mutually agreed suitable mechanism, consisting of government officials.

(c) & (d) The report of the JSG was considered by the Government and the constitution of Joint Task Force to negotiate EPA/CEPA with Japan was approved. The first meeting of India-Japan Joint Task Force was held during January 31 − February 2, 2007 in New Delhi.